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ABSTRACT

This overview of New York State's school library systems begins with a New York State map which shows the geographical location of each of the 46 school library systems. The remainder of the pamphlet provides the following: a brief background on school library systems in the state; a "typical" school library system profile; the types of coordination available to, and the services offered by, school libraries; and a description of what the Member Plan of Service is. Three graphs demonstrate the growth and development in school library monographic holdings, interlibrary loan, and database searches during the years 1979 through 1988. Concluding the pamphlet are an eight-item bibliography and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of personnel who can be contacted for further information. (MAB)

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New York State's

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

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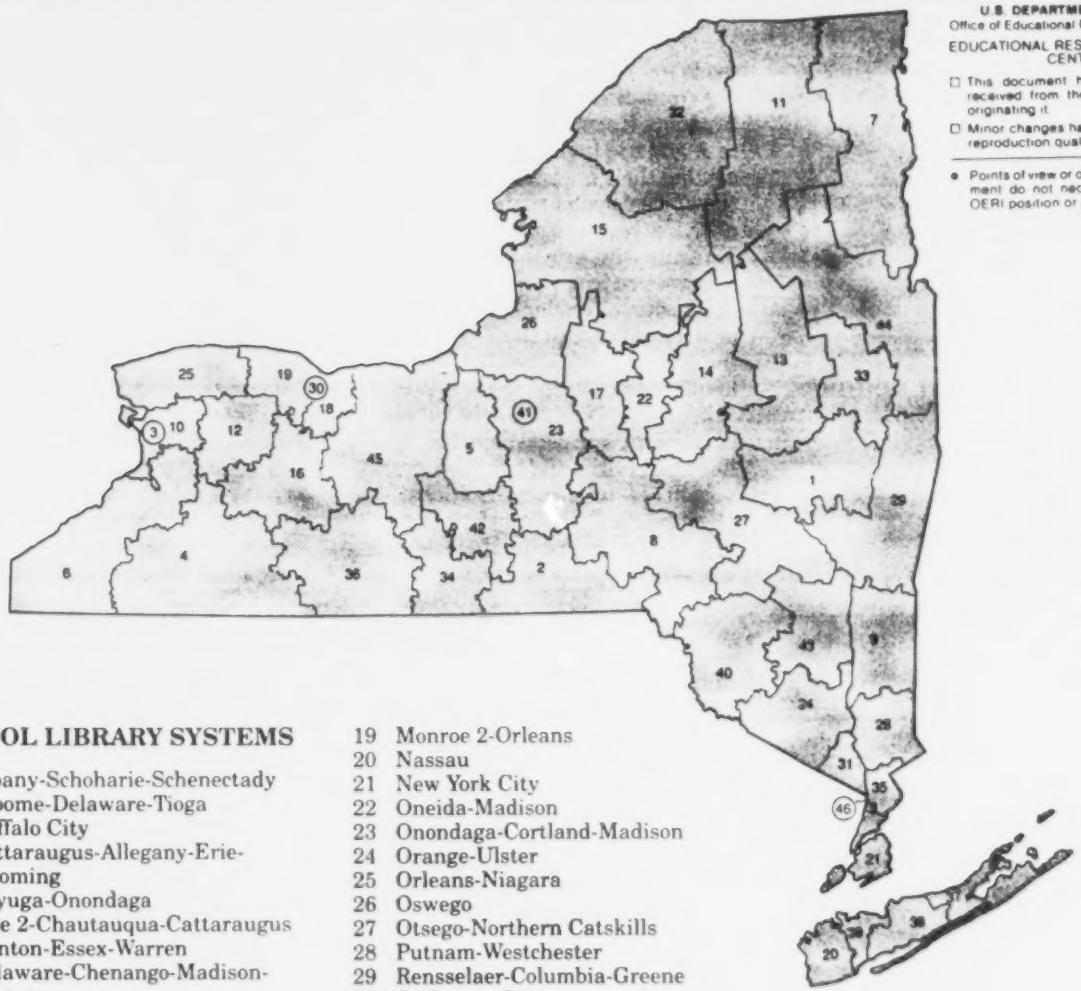

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

1 Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady
2 Broome-Delaware-Tioga
3 Buffalo City
4 Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming
5 Cayuga-Onondaga
6 Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus
7 Clinton-Essex-Warren
8 Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego
9 Dutchess
10 Erie 1
11 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton
12 Genesee-Wyoming
13 Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery
14 Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego
15 Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida
16 Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming
17 Madison-Oneida
18 Monroe 1
19 Monroe 2-Orleans
20 Nassau
21 New York City
22 Oneida-Madison
23 Onondaga-Cortland-Madison
24 Orange-Ulster
25 Orleans-Niagara
26 Oswego
27 Otsego-Northern Catskills
28 Putnam-Westchester
29 Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene
30 Rochester City
31 Rockland
32 St. Lawrence-Lewis
33 Saratoga-Warren
34 Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga
35 Southern Westchester (Westchester 2)
36 Steuben-Allegany
37 Suffolk 1
38 Suffolk 2
39 Suffolk 3
40 Sullivan
41 Syracuse City
42 Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga
43 Ulster
44 Washington-Warren-Hamilton-Essex
45 Wayne-Finger Lakes (Ontario-Seneca-Yates-Cayuga-Wayne)
46 Yonkers City

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The State Education Department
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Division of Library Development
Albany, New York 12230

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

A BRIEF BACKGROUND ON SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

School library media centers are essential to teaching and learning. Certified school library media specialists develop library media skills instruction for students, assist teachers in curriculum planning and design, and manage library media centers that make full use of information technology. Working cooperatively with classroom teachers, library media specialists plan and teach information skills emphasizing cross-disciplinary approaches. Students learn how to locate, organize and use information that will expand their horizons. Teachers use the library media center to individualize instruction and to provide their students with practice in finding information, comparing and evaluating sources and opinions, and developing critical thinking. Fully-integrated approaches, and an emphasis on logical and creative thinking and problem solving, are creating new expectations for library services and use. New technologies — telecommunications, electronic bulletin boards, automated catalogs, online database searching — are rapidly becoming essential components of library media center services.

Recognizing the vitality of today's library media center, all members of the school community make frequent use of updated multi-media collections that reflect recent curriculum changes initiated by the *Regents Action Plan to Improve Elementary and Secondary Education*.

Like other libraries, school library media centers find it difficult to have the wide range of books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, films, and other materials their users need. From 1979 to 1984, 12 pilot school library systems demonstrated how resource sharing among school library media centers and connections to other types of library systems improved access to library resources for students and teachers.

In 1984, the State Legislature authorized the establishment of school library systems based within the State's 41 BOCES and 5 Big City School Districts. Resource sharing among school library media centers has increased dramatically. The need for new, varied and expensive materials to support curricula and the need to draw from a growing number of information sources have made it impossible for a school library media center to stand alone. School library systems enable schools to participate in database development and resource sharing involving all types of libraries.

The systems are currently supported by State aid totaling $5.1 million. Systems qualify for aid based on an approved Plan of Organization and Service. In addition to a base grant, State aid is allocated by a formula that takes into account the number of member school districts, the number of pupils served and the square mileage of the system service area. Nonpublic schools that meet membership criteria may also join the systems.

The law requires each school library system to operate according to a Plan of Organization and Service approved by the Commissioner of Education. Some requirements for the Plan of Service include: a full-time director with a minimum of three years experience as a certified school library media specialist, who holds a school administrator and supervisor certificate; a full-time clerk; a system Council; a liaison group representing all member districts; cooperation with public library systems and reference and research library resources systems; public and nonpublic school membership; union catalog development; interlibrary loan and delivery system; communication; continuing education and attention to special client needs.

Each system is developing a computer-based union catalog that lists member resources in machine-readable catalog (MARC) format. Interlibrary loan delivery systems facilitate the sharing of materials of public, academic, and other libraries in the region, as well as throughout the State and beyond. In addition to database development and resource sharing, school library systems provide direction and assistance for members in continuing education, cooperative collection development, and long-range planning through district/building Member Plans.

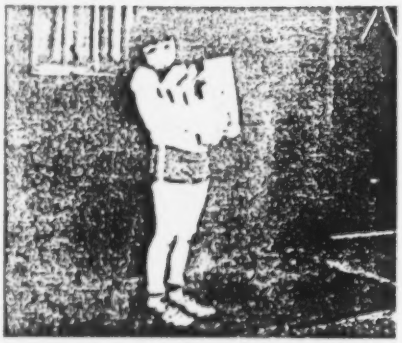
SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM PROFILE

Even though the 46 school library systems have each developed their own Plan of Service, these plans are written in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations 90.18. Therefore, it is possible to develop a profile of a "typical" school library system based upon Annual Reports that are submitted to the Department each year. Currently this profile consists of: two full-time persons on the staff who are paid from State aid funds including a director and a clerical assistant; 65 schools with a total enrollment of 30,000-50,000 (among these are seven nonpublic schools with some 2,000 students); and some 4,500 teachers and administrators.

A representative 14-member council advises the system on policies. A liaison group is composed of a certified library media specialist from each member public school district. This group deals with procedural matters through committee involvement and dissemination of system information.

Each system is developing a computer-based union catalog which now contains location information for nearly 85,000 books and 575 periodical titles held by its members. This union catalog is used by participating schools for interlibrary loan. Most of the interlibrary loans (some 83 percent) are transacted among school libraries within the school library system. Approximately 6 percent of the loans come from other school library systems, 7 percent are furnished by academic, special, and the New York State Library, and the remaining 4 percent by public libraries.

An industrial arts teacher wanted to discuss alternate methods of transportation at the request of a student interested in electric cars. The school library media specialist found him some interesting articles using a database search performed at the school library system. The periodicals were borrowed from the local public library and the library at a nearby community college.



A second grade student in a small urban school decided to write her report on Grandma Moses when the class studied the Women in History unit. Using a microfiche copy of the system's automated catalog, the library media specialist was able to locate a biography and some art books with prints in another school district and borrow them through interlibrary loan.

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement Biology at a small private high school might decide to refer to a book cited in the text for a special report. This book might not be found in the high school library collection, but the library media specialist could arrange for the student to borrow it from a college library through their school's membership in the school library system.

Technological advances in today's business world are occurring at such a rapid rate it is increasingly difficult for a school library media center collection to maintain adequate information for its users. A high school business student interested in networking database management systems was able to borrow books and magazine articles from a nearby large suburban school library through interlibrary loan provided by the school library system.

Mainstreamed special education students in a rural middle school needed materials for their eighth grade science project. The library media specialist was able to assist by accessing the school library system database in CD-ROM format. Materials appropriate to each student's reading level were identified, located and delivered for the students to use within four days.

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WHAT TYPES OF COORDINATION AND SERVICES ARE EXPECTED?

- **UNION CATALOG**

Sharing of library materials among participating schools is an essential component utilizing a computer-based (MARC format) union catalog of resources available in the participating schools.

Currently, nearly four million holdings have been converted into machine-readable format by the 46 school library systems.

- **INTERLIBRARY LOAN**

Interlibrary loan of materials according to an approved policy among participating schools and other library systems (school, public, and reference and research library resources systems).

Interlibrary loan statistics show nearly 320,000 items loaned and borrowed by the 46 school library systems in 1987-88.

- **DELIVERY**

Delivery system to "move" the loans effectively and efficiently.

- **DATABASE SEARCHES**

Database searches are offered to faculties and administrators by many systems. This service locates current information on topics of interest.

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Sponsoring continuing education and workshops on such topics as the use of microcomputers for library management, facilities design, full integration of information skills into curricula, school-public library cooperation, censorship, evaluation techniques, selection of library materials and leadership training skills.

There were over 14,000 participants at continuing education workshops sponsored by the 46 school library systems in 1987-88.

- **INCREASING AWARENESS**

Increasing awareness of library resources and services among library media specialists, faculties and administrators through newsletters, meetings, seminars, bibliographies and electronic mail.

- **COOPERATIVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT**

Development of a plan to assist each school library media center in cooperative collection development. To strengthen system capability for interlibrary loan, one school might build collection strength in science, another focus on Latin America, and a third concentrate on American literary criticism. This cooperation is a cost-effective approach to developing strong resources in certain subject areas and then sharing those resources among participants.

MEMBER PLAN OF SERVICE

Each school library system has developed a Member Plan of Service which each participating school library media center and member district is required to complete. This plan shows how district and building library resources and programs meet the needs of students and teachers, and describes how the school will make effective use of the system.

The specific areas required in the Member Plan are:

- ***staffing***
- ***resources***
- ***communication***
- ***reporting.***

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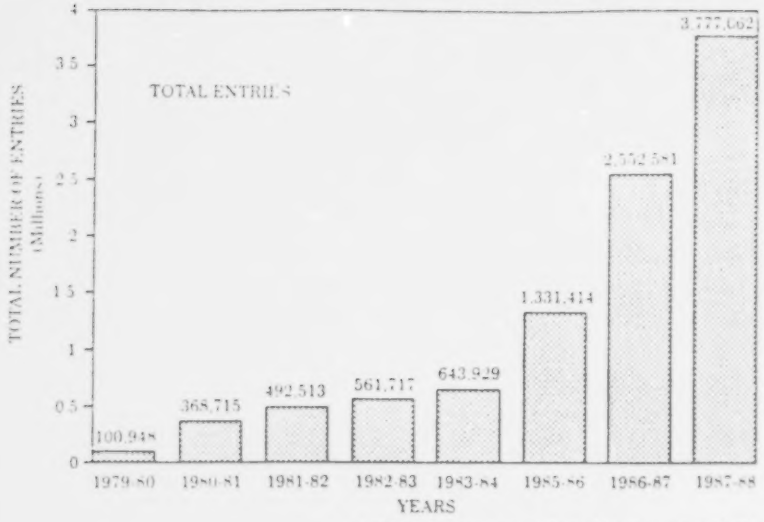
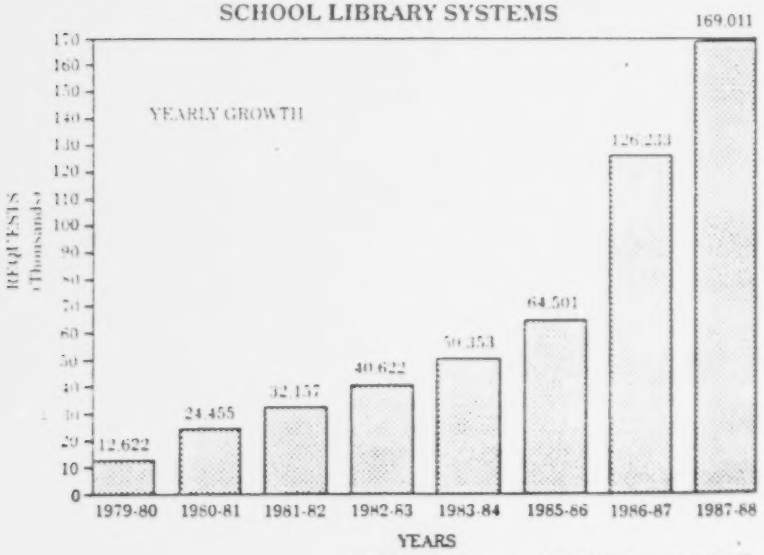
ANNUAL STATISTICS PROVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

GROWTH OF MONOGRAPHIC HOLDINGS IN SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS DATABASES



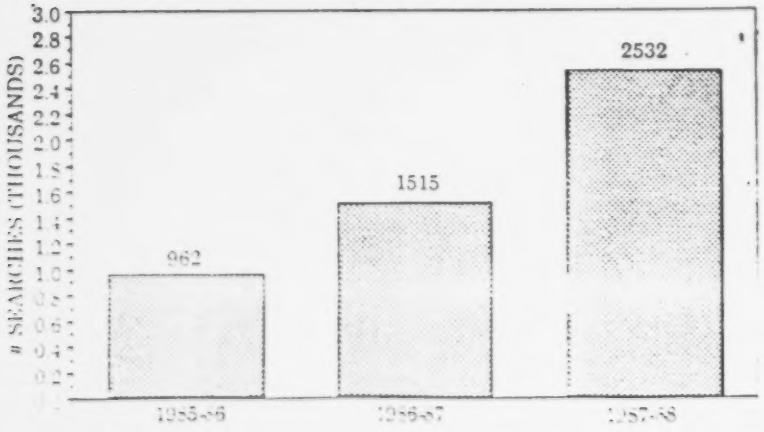
NOTE: no data were collected for the year 1984-85

GROWTH OF INTERLIBRARY LOAN SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS



NOTE: no data were collected for the year 1984-85.

GROWTH OF DATABASE SEARCHES FOR FACULTIES AND ADMINISTRATORS



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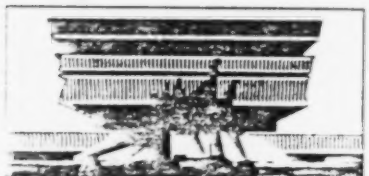

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